Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

[c1]   1. (currently amended) A software method in a computer system for automatically analyzing relationships between target and source documents, comprising the steps of:

   receiving an autolink command by a link analysis server from an application program, the autolink command identifying a processing profile, source documents and target documents;

   accessing a the processing profile identified in the autolink command;

   accessing source and target document data identified in the autolink command;

   determining similarity scores between the source and target documents by a similarity search server and associated remote similarity search agents located in remote disparate databases;

   performing a link analysis for automatically identifying relationships between target and source documents based on comparing the similarity scores between the target and source documents; and

   sending a response containing a link analysis result identifying the relationships to the application program.

[c2]   2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving an autolink command by a link analysis server from a user interface program connected to the link analysis server, the autolink command identifying a processing profile, source documents and target documents.

[c3]   3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing a processing profile further comprises:

   identifying an options element;

identifying a threshold limit element defining a path to threshold limit values;

identifying a mapping element for defining mappings between source and target

    document data;

identifying an output element for defining output attributes including detail level 1,

    detail level 2, detail level 3, detail level 4, persistence level 1, persistence level 2,

    persistence level 3, and persistence level 4; and

identifying a datasource element for defining a persistence data source.

[c4]   4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of identifying an options element

further comprises:

specifying a stop-on-count attribute;

specifying an analysis-type attribute, including single, multiple and group values;

specifying a count-type attribute, including match-count, statistical and threshold;

specifying a minimum and maximum number of document links to be found;

specifying threshold limits for defining ranges of similarity scores for indicating linked

    relationships, including attributes greater-than, greater-than-and-equal-to, less-

    than, less-than-and-equal-to, equal-to, and not-equal-to; and

specifying scoring aggregation options, including attributes include-minimum,

    include-maximum, and average-top-N-scores.

[c5]   5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing a processing profile

comprises accessing a processing profile embedded inline in the autolink command.

[c6]   6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing a processing profile

comprises accessing a processing profile from a persistence database.

[c7]   7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the source document data comprises an

inline designation attribute, one or more source document key attributes, a no-source

attribute for indicating target documents are compared to each other, a query attribute, a database attribute, a cache designation attribute, and a block size attribute.

[c8] 8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing source document data comprises accessing source document data embedded inline in the autolink command.

[c9] 9. (original The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing source document data comprises accessing source document data from a similarity search server by issuing a query command to the similarity search server from the link analysis server.

[c10] 10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target document data comprises an inline designation attribute, one or more source document key attributes, a query attribute, a database attribute, a cache designation attribute, and a block size attribute.

[c11] 11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing target document data comprises accessing target document data embedded inline in the autolink command.

[c12] 12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing target document data comprises accessing target document data from a similarity search server by issuing a query command to the similarity search server from the link analysis server.

[c13] 13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing a link analysis for identifying relationships is based on a comparison selected from the group consisting of:

comparing one source document with many target documents;

comparing multiple source documents with multiple target documents in different groups; and

comparing multiple documents within a group with each other.

[c14]   14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending a response is selected

from the group consisting of:

sending a response containing an error message;

sending a response containing a count of link matches;

sending a response containing a count of link matches and source documents;

sending a response containing a count of link matches, source documents and

document scores that were used in a link match result; and

sending a response containing a count of link matches, source documents,

document scores and document attribute scores that were used in a link match

result.

[c15]   15. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the response

containing the link analysis result in a persistence database.

[c16]   16. (original) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a

computer system according to the software method of claim 1.

[c17]   17. (currently amended) A software system for automatically analyzing relationships

between target and source documents, comprising:

means for receiving an autolink command by a link analysis server from an

application program, the autolink command identifying a processing profile,

source documents and target documents;

means for accessing a processing profile identified in the autolink command;

means for accessing source and target document data identified in the autolink

command;

means for determining similarity scores between the source and target documents

by a similarity search server and associated remote similarity search agents

located in remote disparate databases;

a link analysis engine for performing a link analysis for automatically identifying

relationships between target and source documents based on comparing the

similarity scores between the target and source documents; and

means for sending a response containing a link analysis result identifying the

relationships to the application program.

[c18]   18. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the application program is a

user interface connected to the link analysis server for providing an autolink command,

the autolink command identifying a processing profile, source documents and target

documents.

[c19]   19. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the autolink command comprises an

embedded inline processing profile, embedded inline source document data and

embedded inline target document data.

[c20]   20. (original) The system of claim 19, wherein the processing profile is accessed from a

persistence database.

[c21]   21. (original) The system of claim 19, wherein the source document data is accessed

from a similarity search server.

[c22]   22. (original) The system of claim 19, wherein the target data is accessed from a

similarity search server.

[c23]   23. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the processing profile comprises an

options element, a threshold element, a mapping element and an output element for

designating a persistence database.

[c24]   24. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for receiving an autolink command comprises an input processing section of the link analysis server.

[c25]   25. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for accessing the processing profile, the source document data and the target document data comprises a data manager section of the link analysis server.

[c26]   26. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the link analysis engine for performing a link analysis comprises an engine manager section containing an engine core within the link analysis section.

[c27]   27. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for sending a response is an output section of the link analysis server.

[c28]   28. (original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a data persistence section of the link analysis server for storing response results.

[c29]   29. (currently amended) A software method in a computer system for automatically analyzing relationships between target and source documents, comprising the steps of:

  receiving an autolink command by a link analysis server from a requesting application designating a processing profile, target documents and source documents;

  accessing the processing profile including count, scoring and threshold limits, and target documents and source documents from a database;

  accessing similarity scores between attributes of the target documents and attributes of the source documents from a similarity search server and associated remote similarity search agents located in remote disparate databases;

  linking target document attributes and source document attributes within the link analysis server based on comparative values of attribute similarity scores;

sending results of the linking step identifying the <u>linked document attributes </u>to the

requesting application; and

saving the results in a persistence database.

[c30]   30. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the processing profile is embedded inline

in the autolink command.

[c31]   31. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the target document attributes and

associated schema are embedded inline in the autolink command.

[c32]   32. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the source document attributes and

associated schema are embedded inline in the autolink command.

[c33]   33. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

locating the target documents and the remote similarity search agents in one or more

remote disparate databases;

determining similarity search scores between the source documents and the target

documents by the remote similarity search agents using measurement and

comparison functions; and

transmitting the similarity search scores from the one or more remote disparate

databases to the similarity search server.

[c34]   34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of

locating the source documents in the one or more remote disparate databases.

[c35]   35. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising:

means for locating the target documents and the remote similarity search agents in one

or more remote disparate databases;

remote similarity search agents for determining similarity search scores between the

source documents and the target documents using measurement and

comparison functions; and

means for transmitting the similarity search scores from the one or more remote

disparate databases to the similarity search server.

[c36]   36. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for

locating the source documents in the one or more remote disparate databases.